



Approved For Release 2004/01/20 : CIA-RDP79T00975A031000040001-2

Director of
Central
Intelligence

Top Secret



National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
11 January 1979

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED 10/31/03

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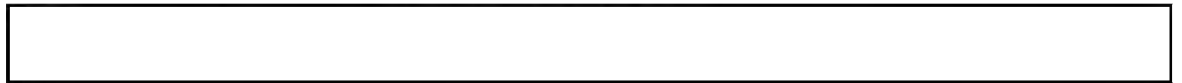
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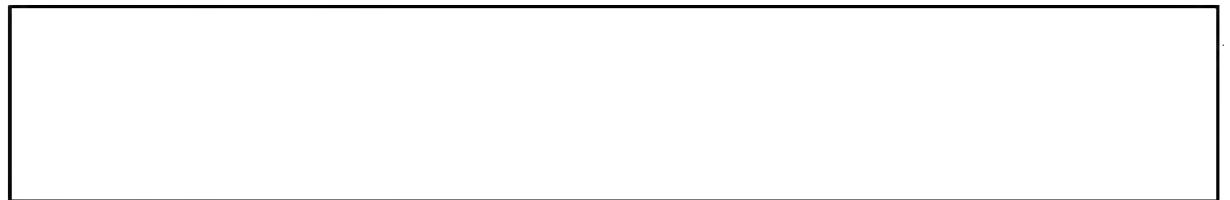
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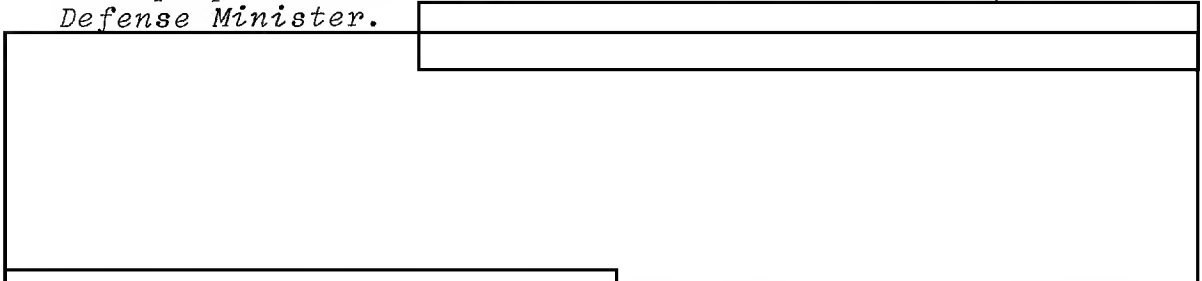


SITUATION REPORTS

IRAN

Reports of planning for a military coup continue to circulate in Tehran. Some members of the opposition have proposed a new candidate to fill the key post of Defense Minister.

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The press also is reporting numerous coup rumors. Prime Minister Bakhtiar yesterday told a Persian language paper that he was doing his best to prevent a coup. Another press report says that Ayatollah Khomeini has warned his followers to avoid acts of violence that would provide an excuse for a military takeover.

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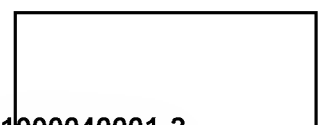
We cannot yet determine if the Shah is encouraging the generals. His continued refusal to set a date for his departure suggests he still hopes he can muddle through the crisis. The Shah said in a press interview yesterday that he would stay in the country for at least another 10 days. The Shah's actions so far have done little to improve Bakhtiar's chances for forming a viable government.

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The Shah's hardline advisers like Ambassador Zahedi are probably encouraging him to be ready to order a crackdown on the opposition if Bakhtiar fails. In any case, Iranians are likely to blame the US for a move by the Shah and the military to restore order through harsh military action. They will argue that the US encouraged the Shah to pursue such a strategy.

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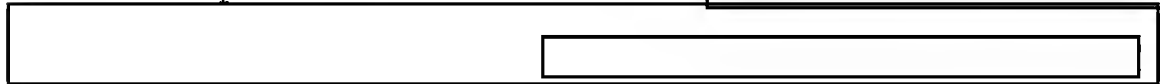
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Some members of the opposition, obviously concerned about coup rumors, have proposed that Bakhtiar name Lt. General Khalil Bakhshiazar to replace General Jam who refused the post of Minister of War.

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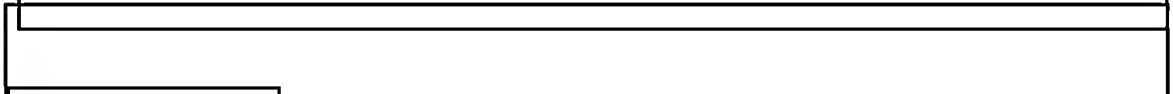
Bakhshiazar is director of J-5, which handles plans and programs for the Supreme Commander's Staff. He is one of the Army's most senior and respected officers and

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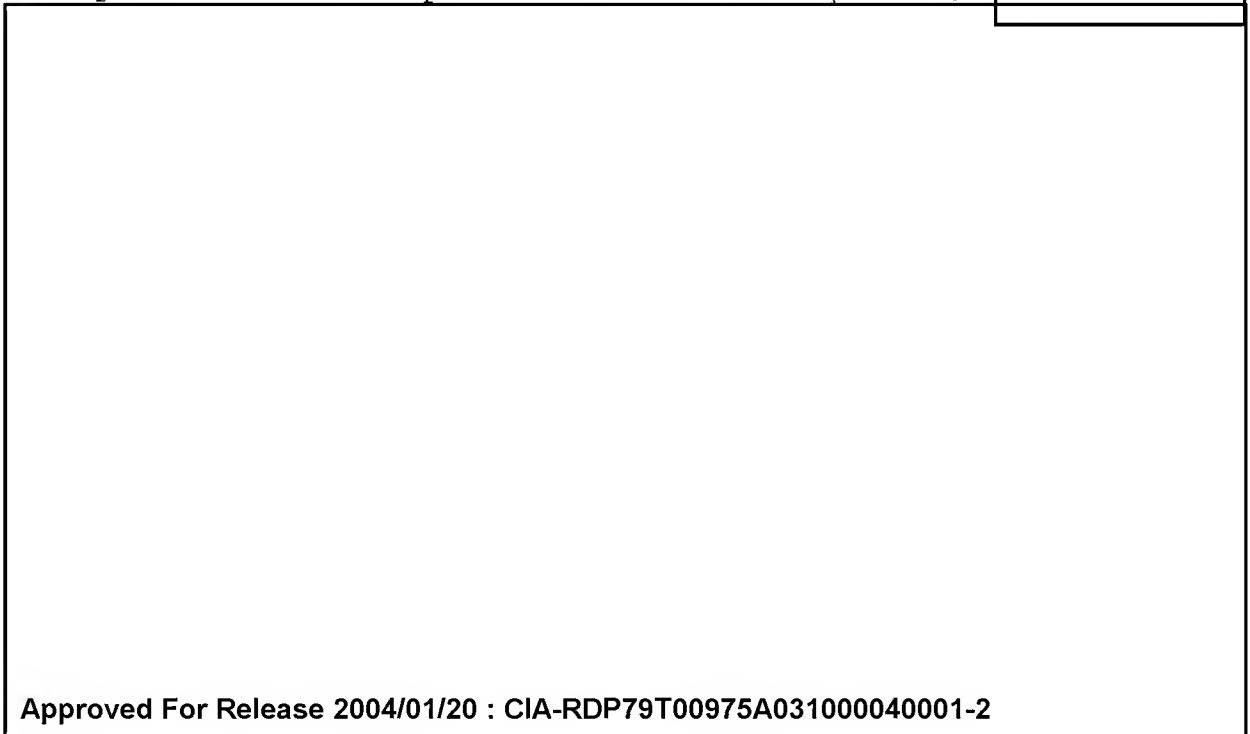
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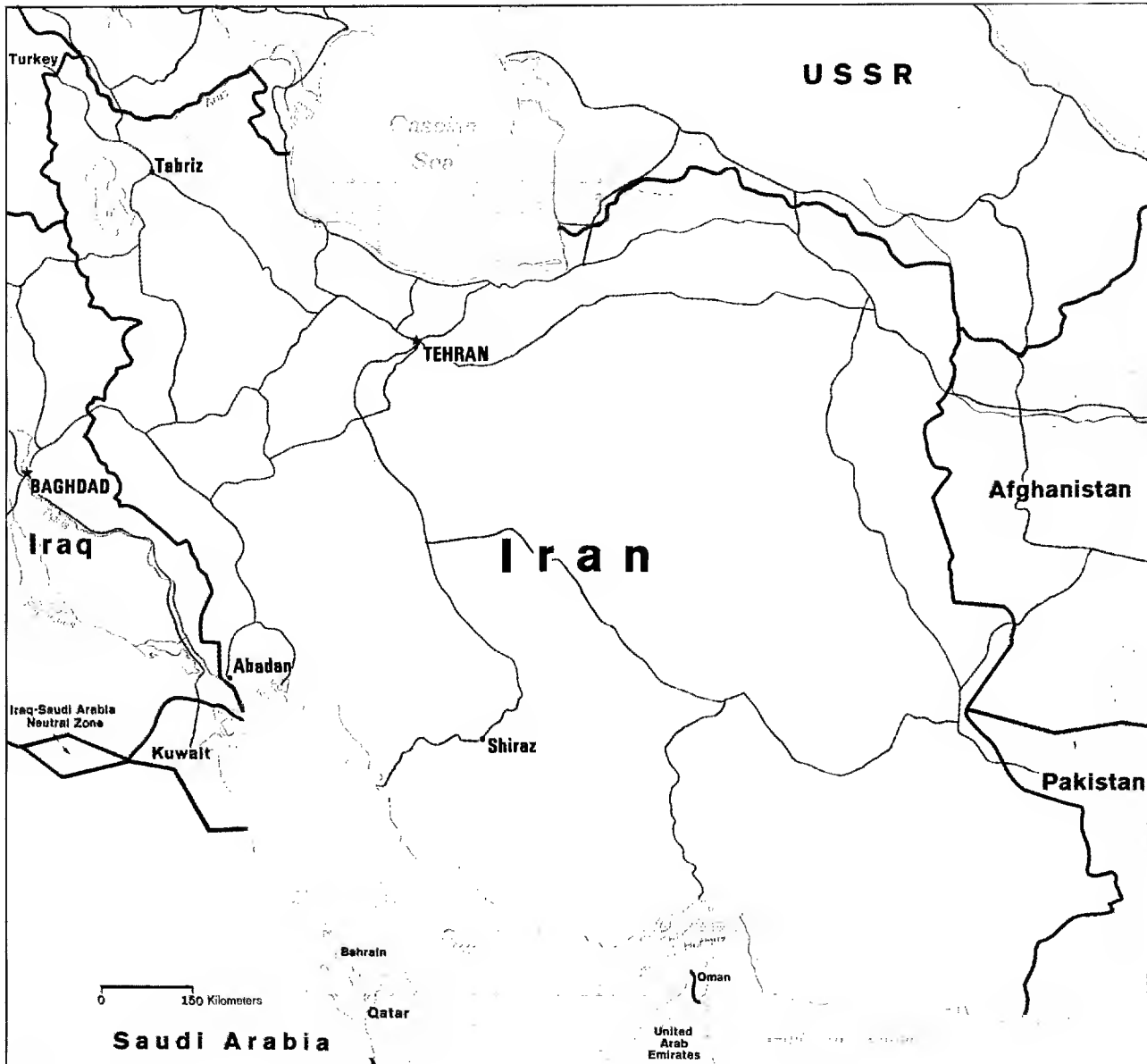
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Bakhshiazar, like Jam, would presumably expect some genuine responsibilities as Minister of War, a post that in the past has had no real powers.

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JAMAICA: Spreading Demonstrations

Prime Minister Manley has reportedly ordered his supporters to use force to halt opposition demonstrations that have spread across Jamaica since Monday. The government has publicly blamed protesters for scattered violence started by Manley's party and has denied the opposition access to the state-controlled electronic media. Manley's actions have increased the chances of serious violence, but the opposition still appears to be in control of the well-organized demonstrations.

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Security forces may have shot some demonstrators, and had restored order in Kingston yesterday. Public utility workers cut off power to large sections of the city, however, as they joined a growing strike that has shut down most of the bauxite industry. Demonstrators, who apparently plan to remain until next Sunday, continued disruptions in major resort areas and in an important inland market town.

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The opposition, which so far has shown surprising muscle in exploiting widespread dissatisfaction with Manley's mismanagement, has made gains in its efforts to force early elections this year.

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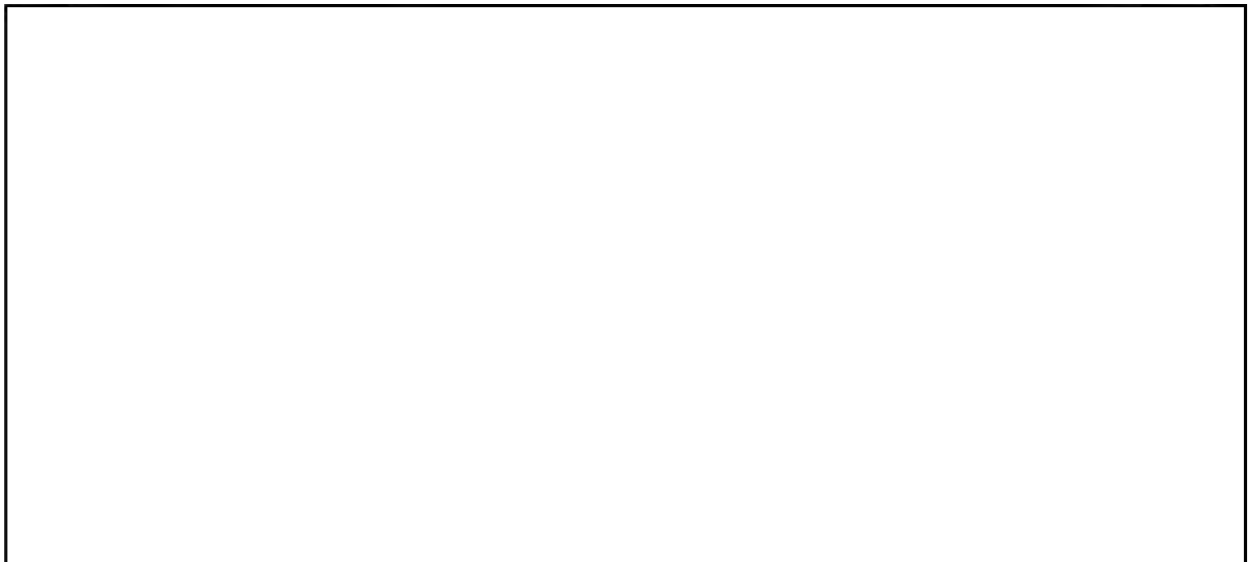


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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)


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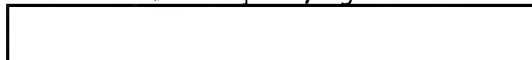


Kampuchea-Thailand

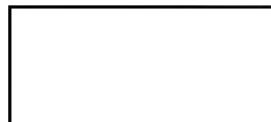
Thai press reports today assert that Kampuchean President Khieu Samphan and Vice Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Ieng Sary have asked Bangkok for permission to transit Thailand. Foreign Minister Uppadit reportedly has said that Bangkok would grant such permission but would not give them political asylum. 

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 A Western wire service, citing Thai officials in the border town of Aranyaprathet, reports that preparations appear to be under way to receive important officials at Poipet, just across the border in Kampuchea.




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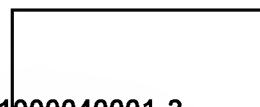


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Belgium-Zaire

Belgian Foreign Minister Simonet is dispatching a special mission to Washington within a week for talks with US and International Monetary Fund officials on prospects for stabilizing the situation in Zaire. Simonet met with Zairian President Mobutu in Brussels last week and concluded that there is an "urgent need" for economic assistance to Zaire through the IMF to support the reform steps Mobutu has taken. The Belgian Foreign Minister says that concerted Western action has an improved chance of success in light of the reforms. The Belgian delegation is seeking appointments with Secretary Vance and National Security Adviser Brzezinski. 

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